

VIA

AIR

DISPATCH NO

EAVA-245

(KCL/2177)

228

SECURITY INFORMATION CLASSIFICATION

TO Chief, IS
FROM Chief of Station, Vienna

DATE 27 October 1952

SUBJECT Operational

Zipper/Recesselprung/Fahrrad;
Erich BRANDSTETTER aka ERHARD,
aka Aris WEISS

Reference: EAVA-122, VIEN-8560, 8647

GROOVY

By []	By []
On []	On []
By []	By []
By []	By []

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1. Since cabling our reply to EAVA-122 and receiving DE-27610 we have had the opportunity of discussing the situation with the case officer responsible for Recesselprung and Fahrrad. This officer stated that Jaroslav LUKATSCH indicated to him Zipper control that a group of Austrian policemen was among the customers of the Recesselprung garbage and added that POB suspects that Austrian policemen are also active in the collecting mechanism. Reiterating the views expressed in PULL-4169 and 4176, he requested that the Vienna Base refrain from investigating LUKATSCH through any Austrian police facilities. Pending instructions to the contrary from Headquarters we had consequently taken no such action. As the Station is presently organized, matters such as the Recesselprung investigation come within the concern of [] Except for his participation in the investigation of the BRANDSTETTER incident, recounted below, [] has consequently not taken an active part in the Recesselprung case.

2. Summary. On 14 October 1952 Erich BRANDSTETTER, a garbage collector, presumed to belong to Zipper's operations Recesselprung and Fahrrad, approached [] either from some motive of his own or as a Soviet agent provocateur, and requested [] assistance in locating his principal, whom he identified as Georg WINTER. Subsequent interrogation of BRANDSTETTER by [] and of Jaroslav LUKATSCH by [] established the fact that WINTER and LUKATSCH are identical. Considerable new information was developed on the garbage collecting mechanism as well as on the relations between Josef Adolf URBAN and persons whose names have previously been of interest in the Recesselprung case. This information leads to the conclusion that actual teams of garbage collectors do exist and do work in the manner in which they have been represented to us, but that a channel for CE exploitation by the enemy may nevertheless exist, since more than one team is active, since individual members of teams are highly vulnerable to Soviet control, and since among persons other than LUKATSCH who have acted as channels of garbage to URBAN are [] and Josef RASCHER, both now

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in Soviet custody and both long suspected of being under Soviet control.

3. Headquarters Action. In view of the new information and of FOD's view (see [redacted] 100-100000) that the Austrian police should not be employed to investigate LUKATSCH, we recommend that any future action taken be directed against LUKAN himself. We feel that the emergency created in garbage-gathering circles by BRANDOTATTER's actions, which are now fully known to LUKATSCH, will probably generate further information which will furnish us with definite leads. Headquarters is requested to make name checks on persons mentioned in Paragraph 32 of PIQ attached to Appendix A, as well as on FRITZ KUNZ, Austrian, residing in Vienna.

4. Summary of Vienna Station's Action. BRANDOTATTER reported to the Vienna Trust Marshall, Stittskasorne, in the early morning of 14 October 1952, and was picked up by Gragora at noon the same day. Gragora notified [redacted] and the same afternoon and, after Pullach advised by cable that ICB held no traces on BRANDOTATTER, [redacted] began interrogating BRANDOTATTER in the English language under Gragora cover on the afternoon of 16 October. This first session covered BRANDOTATTER's relationship with Georg WINTER and included a detailed physical description of WINTER. Subsequent file traces indicated that the personal description of WINTER closely resembled that of Jaroslav LUKATSCH. Further checking of descriptive details with BRANDOTATTER the following morning revealed that BRANDOTATTER's description of WINTER was identical in all respects with the personal description of LUKATSCH received in SAV-4-122. A check of the Vienna Zentrale Meldeamt, without the knowledge of the Austrian police, showed that LUKATSCH was registered at Wien VIII, Lerchenfelderstrasse 124-26/II/14, and at 1630, 17 October, Gragora man Walter STERN, accompanied by another Gragora man (NU) visited this address to inquire concerning the whereabouts of LUKATSCH. It was planned to request LUKATSCH to accompany STERN to a Gragora operational area, where arrangements had been made for BRANDOTATTER to see and identify LUKATSCH as WINTER without himself being seen by LUKATSCH and without learning LUKATSCH's true name. This contact with LUKATSCH was designed to serve two purposes: (1) identifying LUKATSCH would indicate that LUKATSCH does have actual garbage collection agents; (2) it would provide an opportunity to appraise LUKATSCH of the compromise which had taken place in his operation, if that was not already known to him. Since no one answered the door at this visit, STERN returned to the apartment at 1900 and learned that LUKATSCH had not been at the apartment for several weeks, but that the apartment actually was rented and used by LUKATSCH's girl friend, who seldom slept there. At this time STERN left a note for LUKATSCH, requested him to call Herr WALTER, and gave a number widely known and publicly listed as that of Gragora. Also on the evening of 19 October, STERN, at [redacted] direction, initiated futile efforts to make contact with WINTER at the Hotel Fuchs, the location at which BRANDOTATTER was accustomed to meet WINTER. Saturday morning STERN again checked LUKATSCH's apartment and the Hotel Fuchs. Saturday afternoon [redacted] continued with the interrogation of BRANDOTATTER. At

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1130 on Sunday, 19 October, the note left at LUKATSCHE's apartment caused a response. STERN had been instructed by [] to set the meeting for Monday morning, at which time arrangements could again be made to have BRANDLETTER identify LUKATSCHE, but LUKATSCHE insisted that if Grigora had information of use to him the meeting take place immediately. STERN consented, with the meeting scheduled for 1200 in front of the PK. Using a Grigora vehicle, STERN picked up LUKATSCHE at the appointed time and place, while [] attempted a one-man counter-surveillance, results negative. STERN then picked up [] and proceeded to a Grigora operational apartment at Cobenzalgasse 42/7a. The car was stopped on the way to the operational apartment to enable [] to phone [] from a public phone to signal to him that the pickup had been made according to schedule, that LUKATSCHE wished to talk, and that he should proceed to the above mentioned operational apartment. As soon as the trio arrived at the operational apartment, LUKATSCHE was told to sit and wait in the apartment, STERN returned to Grigora headquarters, and [] waited at the apartment gate to meet [] and guide him to the proper room which [] and STERN had experienced difficulty in finding. The purpose of this somewhat complex arrangement was to insulate [] from STERN. [] discussion with LUKATSCHE commenced at approximately 1240 and lasted until 1330. It was friendly throughout, and at no time was LUKATSCHE pressed for current operational details, since [] and [] were anxious not to disturb Zipper's contact arrangements. LUKATSCHE was willing to talk freely concerning the historical background of the garbage collection operation, other personalities and groups engaged in garbage collection operations, and the impact of the BRANDLETTER affair on his current position vis-a-vis the Soviets. With the aid of [] to furnish the details of the BRANDLETTER story as it was known to him, [] informed LUKATSCHE of BRANDLETTER's approach to Grigora. In the highly unlikely, but nonetheless conceivable, event that either LUKATSCHE or the Vienna Station would want to initiate another contact, recontact procedures were arranged. LUKATSCHE was given the name GERHARDT which he could use in calling Grigora and he, in turn, supplied the phone number A-25 2 93, at which he could be reached until 24 October. LUKATSCHE left the operational apartment and was picked up outside in a Grigora vehicle by STERN. [] and [] left the apartment approximately ten minutes later. A black vehicle with Soviet plates and civilian occupants was noted by [] as he and [] were proceeding from the apartment to their car. As it was in the middle of a beautiful Sunday afternoon and the car was travelling on the crowded main road up to the Kahlenberg, the presence of the Soviet vehicle could easily have been accidental.

5. The BRANDLETTER-LUKATSCHE Relation. The following is the story of the BRANDLETTER-WINTER-LUKATSCHE relationship as related by BRANDLETTER, who is certainly lying on some points. The story was not checked in detail with LUKATSCHE, but important discrepancies were nevertheless apparent. Confirmations as well as contradictory

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assertions made by LUKATZSCH are placed in parentheses.

a. Recruitment - BRANDSTETTER was recruited off the street near the Westbahnhof by LUKATZSCH and a friend, possibly Jaroslav KATRACH, on 13 September 1952. BRANDSTETTER, dressed poorly and obviously needing money, was asked if he would deliver a letter to a certain address for AS 5. (LUKATZSCH gave the figure as AS 20.) The letter was written on the spot by LUKATZSCH's friend; the three then got into a taxi, drove by the house in which the friend was to be found, and stopped a block away while BRANDSTETTER went back with instructions to deliver the letter personally to one Fritz MUCHE, residing in the vicinity of Mangluessgasse, Vienna IV. (LUKATZSCH stated that MUCHE is a principal figure in one of URSAN's collection nets, adding that he is lazy, chases women, and is a compulsive drinker.) MUCHE was described as 19-22, slender, blond, light complexion, looked and spoke Austrian. With MUCHE in the apartment were three other Austrian-looking boys of MUCHE's age and a girl with Slavic features. MUCHE said to BRANDSTETTER, "Are you working for them too." (LUKATZSCH confirmed that the recruitment took place in this way. There was no investigation of BRANDSTETTER as a likely candidate prior to approaching him.)

b. Chronology of Activity - Instead of dropping BRANDSTETTER after delivery of the letter, WITZ and his friend began to question him about his background. The more BRANDSTETTER talked, the more interested they became. The first several days they wine and dined him in private dining rooms in first-class restaurants, and on the third or fourth day LUKATZSCH bought him AS 2000 worth of new clothes in Jtaffer's on Mariahilferstrasse. (This cost was confirmed by LUKATZSCH, who stated that all told his caper with BRANDSTETTER cost him AS 5000.) BRANDSTETTER was instructed to reside in the Hotel Fuchs, Mariahilferstrasse 138. On 15 September, he was told that there was a Soviet trash dump next to the railroad station in Bad Voesslau, given a short briefing, and ordered to go there and return with all the papers he could find with Cyrillic writing on them. Newspapers were given bottom priority, while papers with Soviet stamps and caches were most desired. BRANDSTETTER returned, mission accomplished, with a five kilo bag packed solidly with papers. He was sent out to various dumps with similar brief instructions for the next two days. On 17 September his actual training began. From that date until 26 September, when BRANDSTETTER left for St. Poelten, he was taken out to one or more dumps almost every day by LUKATZSCH's friend. On these trips he was taught by LUKATZSCH's friend how to walk, dress, act, and talk as if he were poor and destitute. He was instructed in greater detail in what types of material were desired, in collection techniques, and was given a cover story in case questioned. (Operational data on the dumps visited will be contained in an appendix to this report.) During this period, he saw LUKATZSCH sometimes two or three times daily. He was paid on a daily basis, sometimes AS 20 or 30, occasionally AS 100. After completion of his training, BRANDSTETTER was dispatched to St. Poelten. BRANDSTETTER had wanted to stay in Vienna, but LUKATZSCH claimed that he

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had enough collectors to cover the Vienna area, and, as BRANDSTETTER was already documented in St. Pölten and knew the area, that was the logical place for him to work. He was instructed to collect from the dumps in St. Pölten, Amstetten, and Hainfeld. BRANDSTETTER claimed that he recruited the guard at the St. Pölten town dump, which lies between the soccer field and the Traisen River. (LUKATZSCH stated that this man had previously been recruited, and that BRANDSTETTER's job was only to pick up the material from him.) LUKATZSCH told BRANDSTETTER that the dump by the Teufelschuf tank camp in St. Pölten had excellent material, but that it was very dangerous. He was to recruit another person to go to this dump, and definitely was not to go there himself. (LUKATZSCH confirms that this briefing was given.) After BRANDSTETTER had tried unsuccessfully to recruit several persons, all of whom refused on the grounds that it was too dangerous, BRANDSTETTER, fearing LUKATZSCH's dissatisfaction, went to the dump himself. On his first visit to this dump, at 0900 Saturday, 11 October, BRANDSTETTER was arrested by the Soviets as he was leaving the dump. He was first taken to the nearby Soviet camp and then, at 2000, to the St. Pölten Kommandatura. At the third interrogation at the Kommandatura — (the first two had lasted a total of approximately two and one-half hours) — at approximately 1800 on 12 October, BRANDSTETTER decided that he had nothing to gain by not talking, and so started spilling his entire story to the Soviets, with no attempt at concealment. BRANDSTETTER claims that the Soviets then ordered him to use his established communications channel to telegraph LUKATZSCH at the Hotel Fuchs to say that he could not make the meeting on 15 October but that he would come to Vienna on 21 October. In the meantime, he should remain in St. Pölten and report to the Kommandatura for further instructions on 18 October. BRANDSTETTER stated that he did not send this cable, but that, instead, immediately after his release by the Soviets he caught the last train from St. Pölten to Vienna and arrived in Vienna late on the night of 13 October and checked in at the Hotel Fuchs. He reported to the Stillekaserne early the next morning seeking LUKATZSCH, who he thought worked for the Americans, and was picked up by Dragora at 1200 and given a preliminary interrogation. [redacted] picked up the Dragora interrogation at 1430, 16 October. BRANDSTETTER's exact reason for wanting to find LUKATZSCH is still not clear. Allegedly he felt that he could not wait twenty-four hours without warning LUKATZSCH of what had happened, although it appears to us that in contradicting Soviet instructions by coming to Vienna and then staying again at the Hotel Fuchs, however, he showed no fear that the Soviets would be interested in the case. On 16 October, the day after the scheduled meeting with LUKATZSCH, when [redacted] first spoke with BRANDSTETTER [redacted] pressed for a reason why BRANDSTETTER still wanted to find LUKATZSCH. BRANDSTETTER claimed that LUKATZSCH has his Austrian passport, a pawn ticket for his typewriter, and a suitcase containing most of the new clothes LUKATZSCH had purchased for him. (LUKATZSCH's account of BRANDSTETTER's activity, and of BRANDSTETTER's story to him, differs in important respects from the above. LUKATZSCH claims that he met BRANDSTETTER according to schedule in the Hotel Fuchs at 0800, 15 October, the day after BRANDSTETTER first reported to Dragora and the day before [redacted] first meeting with him. This meeting was

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very brief, BRANDSTETTER giving the following story concerning his being picked up by the Soviets. On the morning of Saturday, 11 October, he had been caught while inside the dump at Telfelshof tank camp. At the time he was caught, however, he had only scrap metal in his bag, having pushed the papers to one side where he could pick them up all at once just before leaving the dump. Consequently, he was released immediately. He went back again the same afternoon to pick up the papers he had pushed to one side and was again stopped by the Soviets. As he had had only scrap in his bag in the morning, the Soviets assumed that this was again the case and he was released without the Soviets having looked in his bag. Frightened, he immediately came to Vienna, leaving the papers behind. LUKATSCHEK instructed him to return to St. Pölten and pick up the papers and bring them back to Vienna the same night. LUKATSCHEK met BRANDSTETTER again in the evening and received from him a large box which he later discovered contained only leaves that had apparently been picked up from a park in Vienna, and a copy of a Swiss newspaper. BRANDSTETTER insisted that he could not wait until LUKATSCHEK had an opportunity to open the box, so LUKATSCHEK gave him AS 100 and instructed him to report again next week. LUKATSCHEK said he was very suspicious of BRANDSTETTER even before discovering the leaves; he had the feeling that the meetings were being surveilled, while on one occasion BRANDSTETTER insisted on taking the second taxi in a line of waiting taxis rather than the first, and this taxi driver later endeavored to ascertain LUKATSCHEK's address. LUKATSCHEK also claimed that he does not have any suitcase containing BRANDSTETTER's clothes, but that he does have his Austrian passport, his Israeli documents, some typewritten sheets of what appears to be a novel in progress, and a pawn ticket for BRANDSTETTER's typewriter.)

c. Communications and Contact Arrangements - During the period 13-26 September, BRANDSTETTER was in constant contact with LUKATSCHEK and friend, seeing them several times a day, and meetings were always pre-arranged in various cafes, on street corners, or in the Hotel Fuchs, which was BRANDSTETTER's residence. After BRANDSTETTER left for St. Pölten, he was to return to Vienna every Thursday night and stay at the Hotel Fuchs. Starting at 0600 on Friday morning, he would wait in the lobby of the Hotel Fuchs until contacted by LUKATSCHEK. They would then go to the Westbahnhof together to pick up BRANDSTETTER's rucksack full of Soviet papers which BRANDSTETTER had checked there upon arriving by train the previous evening. LUKATSCHEK would take the rucksack and arrange to meet BRANDSTETTER again one or two hours later, after he had had time to examine the contents. He discussed the take, always saying it was unsatisfactory, and paid BRANDSTETTER AS 500 for the week's work. (LUKATSCHEK claimed that it was AS 600-700.) If BRANDSTETTER for some reason could not come to Vienna on the scheduled date, he was to send a telegram or registered letter to LUKATSCHEK at the Hotel Fuchs, which LUKATSCHEK would receive when he went to the Fuchs to pick up BRANDSTETTER on Friday morning. This telegram was to be signed "Erhardt", which was BRANDSTETTER's code name. BRANDSTETTER was to return to St. Pölten by train Friday night. The meeting scheduled for Wednesday, 15 October, was a break from the established routine. The change was made because

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LUKATSCH's friend "wanted to take him somewhere" — probably on another training mission.

d. BRANDSTÄTTER's Suggestions for Finding LUKATSCH -

BRANDSTÄTTER does not know LUKATSCH by true name, nor does he know his residence. He does, however, have knowledge which could make it fairly simple for the Soviets to find LUKATSCH. BRANDSTÄTTER gave an exact personal description of LUKATSCH, including a description of a distinctive coat and hat which he wore at every meeting with BRANDSTÄTTER and of areas frequented by LUKATSCH along the Mariahilferstrasse and in the vicinity of the Westbahnhof. He could have arranged for a Soviet surveillance to pick up LUKATSCH at the Hotel Fuchs meeting. He could point out the exact residence of Fritz KUCHE. He could point out a house on the Heuserlinggasse, Vienna XV, in which LUKATSCH is acquainted with the janitress. LUKATSCH had already purchased a new coat and hat prior to the meeting with [redacted] he stated that he intends to avoid the area of the Westbahnhof — Mariahilferstrasse.

6. LUKATSCH's History. The history of Jaroslav LUKATSCH's activity in intelligence, as narrated by LUKATSCH to [redacted] falls into four periods. Of these, the first and third are dominated by Josef Adolf [redacted], the second and fourth by Zipper's Ukrainian group. Recurring through all four periods are names which fall on our ears like the notes of an old, old [redacted] Frantisek KLENOVIC, Josef MASCHER, George HOLLOVIC, Frantisek SICM, Raimund STRANGL, Granolite/32, Heins FROHLICH and (persistently in the base) URBAN. By oversight or ignorance LUKATSCH mentioned neither (Dr) Wilhelm KECITL nor [redacted], and by an effort of the will truly vast, [redacted] forbore to introduce these names into the conversation.

a. The Agusa Period: 1942-late 1942. Early in 1948

LUKATSCH met and began working for URBAN, who at that time maintained a net of informants among refugees. LUKATSCH was assigned to maintain contact with various persons affiliated with the Czech Hilfskomitee of PRCHALA, among them Frantisek SICM aka [redacted] through whom in early 1949 LUKATSCH arranged, or claims to have arranged, a courier line into the CSR. In general it was LUKATSCH's function to acquire information from refugees and to prepare this in the form of reports which he passed to URBAN. LUKATSCH states that URBAN edited, revised and expanded these reports before reselling them to numerous but unidentified customers. The reader will recall that this was the period of [redacted] Project Agusa, and a review of the files on this project, particularly in connection with the case of Karel STUBORA, will indicate how numerous these customers were; among them, be it noted, was [redacted] Active in URBAN's group at this time was one "Heins", whose last name LUKATSCH affects not to know, but who may be presumed to be Heins FROHLICH. Also connected with the group, and in particular with FROHLICH, was Granolite/32, whom LUKATSCH first met early in 1948. During this period LUKATSCH became acquainted with George HOLLOVIC and Frantisek KLENOVIC, as well as with the man who now acts as LUKATSCH's principal. URBAN

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met this principal at about the time (late 1947), that LUKATSCHEK began working for the first time with the Ukrainian group. The principal was introduced to UTKAN by a refugee (name obscured), who was assisting the Ukrainians in their attempts to obtain a false document for a Jewish deserter from the Soviet Army, Major (name obscured). Thus LUKATSCHEK's contacts with the Ukrainian group have been known to UTKAN from the beginning.

b. First Ukrainian period: late 1944-early 1950. In late 1949 George H. LUKATSCHEK became involved in a (name obscured) operation which LUKATSCHEK identifies as the use of (name obscured) boys. (LUKATSCHEK is probably misled here by the publicity which the trial of Franko and Abel received in the press; H. LUKATSCHEK was active, if (name obscured) memory serves, in Kanstopfer.) As a consequence of having become identified to enemy intelligence as an active American agent, H. LUKATSCHEK was evacuated to Salzburg and later to the Western Hemisphere. Before leaving Vienna H. LUKATSCHEK recommended LUKATSCHEK to the Ukrainian group as his own replacement in the garbage and CB enterprise which the group was conducting. LUKATSCHEK parted from UTKAN on friendly terms, feeling that although UTKAN had always behaved in a most correct manner, nevertheless he was a German, a bit of a Prussian, and LUKATSCHEK was happy to join with a group more sympathetic to his own Slav temperament. Under the guidance of a "chief", (name obscured), and a "principal" (Vorgesetzter), (name obscured), he consequently established his first garbage unit, recruiting his collectors, at first extremely aged, preferably female, and always destitute Austrians whom he approached stone-cold on the streets and later vetted as best he could through direct interrogation. Initially he merely supervised the collection of the trash and handed it on to his principal, but as time went on he was also required to help process the information. His part in the processing involved cleaning the trash physically, translating it from Russian into Ukrainian, and adding whatever interpretation seemed pertinent. The responsibility for selecting items for special emphasis thus fell largely on him; although his knowledge of Russian CB was limited to what he gradually learned as he became familiar with quantities of garbage. This state of affairs continued, with a fairly heavy turnover of garbage gatherers and a gradual shift from aged women to younger male vagabonds, until June or July 1950, when one of the collectors, (name obscured), was arrested in St. Pölten and the morale of the Ukrainian group disintegrated. LUKATSCHEK was left with no source of funds and with only one of his group of collectors still under control.

c. Second Ukrainian Period: Rosenbergsprung; Summer 1950-Fall 1952. Down at the heel and with only one garbage collector in his stable, LUKATSCHEK went into business again for UTKAN in the summer of 1950. By LUKATSCHEK's account this business was still the same, a scratching in the heaps, and if we take this story at face value we can only speculate on the nature of UTKAN's market for the trash from the summer of 1950 until the summer of 1951, when UTKAN established contact with Zipper through (name obscured). In any event, according to LUKATSCHEK, the arrangement as it exists until

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recently provided for a monthly payment of 5000 schillings by URBAN to LUKATSCH, from which LUKATSCH financed the entire venture, including his own salary. LUKATSCH was aware that he was not URBAN's only source of material, however, for on one occasion URBAN brought to a meeting some other material of the aromatic type and compared it with LUKATSCH's take. LUKATSCH believes this material was given to URBAN by [redacted].

Early in 1951 a Kripo man, whose name LUKATSCH claims to have forgotten, approached LUKATSCH for information on a Ukrainian DP. When LUKATSCH asked for bona fides, the Kripo man stated that Josef MASCHER had sent him, but since this occurred a month before LUKATSCH first met MASCHER, he deduced that MASCHER must also be working for URBAN and that MASCHER had gotten LUKATSCH's name from URBAN. Expanding, LUKATSCH stated with no prompting whatsoever that MASCHER's business was the manufacture of false information on Communist activities, and added that MASCHER had subsequently been arrested by the Russians. In February or March of 1952 LUKATSCH was approached by [redacted], who stated that he was acquainted with a Yugoslav translatrix who could acquire Soviet documents [redacted] conjectures [redacted] and offered these for sale to LUKATSCH. LUKATSCH refused, and a month later KLIDOVIC approached LUKATSCH on behalf of [redacted] repeating the offer. LUKATSCH stated that he physically ejected KLIDOVIC from the premises, acting in the belief that [redacted] was under Soviet control and that KLIDOVIC was in the Russians' pay. As LUKATSCH explained the situation, KLIDOVIC's visit coincided with or followed closely after the arrest of [redacted].

According to our information [redacted] arrest occurred considerably later, but the dates are not firm in our reports. In any case, LUKATSCH attempted, sincerely or not, to give [redacted] the impression that [redacted] and KLIDOVIC have always been dubious characters and are now Soviet agents; he attempted to give an opposite impression of URBAN. [redacted] mentioned the name of Raimund STRANGL, and LUKATSCH stated that he knew of STRANGL but had had no personal contact, adding that STRANGL was another of the same category; this category presumably included observers such as STRANGL, garbage specialists such as LUKATSCH, and fabricators such as MASCHER — all connected with URBAN, all known to each other, all presumably selling to several customers, and all vulnerable to Soviet arrest at any time.

d. Fahrt. Recently LUKATSCH met his Ukrainian principal, on whose initiative he does not say, and learned that the Ukrainian group was again in a position to sponsor his garbage gathering. He consequently ended his arrangement with URBAN and took up with the Ukrainian group with the same financial arrangement. Relations are not so friendly between himself and URBAN as at the previous parting, but he is firm in his intentions and states that he bears no malice toward URBAN. A meeting has been scheduled to occur during the week of 20-25 October 1952, which will be LUKATSCH's final meeting with URBAN.

7. The Structure of LUKATSCH's Garbage Group. In response to

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questions about the structure of his enterprise, LUKATSCHE drew a small chart and described the group schematically. He refused to name any names and was not pressed to do so. [] believes that it would be consistent with LUKATSCHE's personality for him to lie more concerning the actual structure of his operation and the identities of his principals than concerning anything else, and so we reserve all judgment on these statements. According to the chart, LUKATSCHE has a group of six collectors, five of whom are trained, directed and supervised by the sixth, who acts as cutout in transmitting the information to LUKATSCHE. LUKATSCHE does meet the other five periodically, however, to pay them and to deliver short critiques. This cut-out has never had personal contact with LUKATSCHE's principal. In addition to the team of six LUKATSCHE runs one man whom he personally recruited and trained and who is not known to the six and does not know LUKATSCHE's principal. BRANDSTETTER was another such single agent, unknown to the group of six, but BRANDSTETTER was recruited jointly by LUKATSCHE and his principal as an accidental aftermath of having used him successfully to deliver a letter to Fritz KUCHE, whom LUKATSCHE did not wish to meet personally. BRANDSTETTER received much of his training and supervision initially from the principal. Above the principal is a "chief", whom LUKATSCHE knows but normally does not see. It should be noted that BRANDSTETTER stated he had the impression that the "principal" whom he met was WINTER's assistant, and that WINTER/LUKATSCHE bossed the entire show.

8. Disposal of BRANDSTETTER. The establishment of contact with LUKATSCHE and his identification as WINTER on 19 October ended the usefulness of BRANDSTETTER and, at the same time, gave rise to the possibility that BRANDSTETTER was still under Soviet control. [] consequently dropped contact with BRANDSTETTER on 20 October, having met him as scheduled and received from him maps that BRANDSTETTER had drawn of twelve different Soviet dumps he had visited. [] stated that we had not been able to locate WINTER through the leads he had given us and that, for all we knew, WINTER might not even exist. Consequently, BRANDSTETTER's usefulness to Grogora had come to an end. Because he had not fulfilled his obligation to us, i.e., had not found WINTER, we could not follow through on our commitments to help him obtain another Austrian passport, to evacuate him to the zone, or give him a small sum of money in compensation for his assistance. BRANDSTETTER made absolutely no objection to this and gave no sign that he wanted to remain in contact with Grogora or that he wanted anything more from Grogora in compensation for his services. Although his blank reaction was in character, [] was nonetheless surprised. In order to give the Soviets an entry in case they were still controlling BRANDSTETTER and wanted to show their hand by taking the initiative, [] gave BRANDSTETTER the name Mr. Jacob to use in calling Grogora to arrange another meeting if he could bring WINTER's current address or WINTER himself to Grogora headquarters. In calling Grogora BRANDSTETTER was to leave a phone number and time at which he could be reached by phone if Mr. Jacob was not in his office at the time he called. On 21st, 21 October, Grogora received a call

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from an individual who asked for a name which sounded like Mr. Jarkoff. As Jarkoff is phonetically similar to the German pronunciation of Jacob, and as Gragora had no similar name listed, the Gragora switchboard operator concluded that the caller was actually seeking Mr. Jacob, and [] was informed. If it was BRANDSTATTER, as seems probable, he left the message that he wanted to be met at 1930, 22 October, in the Stallgasse, Vienna VII (Stallgasse is one and a half blocks long, and no specific location was given.) This meeting did not take place.

9. Comments re BRANDSTATTER. It is believed here that BRANDSTATTER was not acting in good faith when he approached Gragora, but the data currently at hand is too conflicting to permit a conclusion as to whether the approach was made under Soviet control or for some motive of his own. The Vienna Station does not now intend to pursue the BRANDSTATTER investigation further.

10. Appendices. Two appendices are attached to this report, Appendix A, entitled Biographical Information on Erich BRANDSTATTER aka Iris WNISS, and Appendix B, entitled Chronology of [] BRANDSTATTER Meetings. An Appendix C, Operational Data on Soviet Trash Dumps in Austria, will be forwarded at a later date.

[]
[]

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APPENDIX A

SUBJECT: Biographical Information on Erich BRANDSTETTER & Aria WEISS

1. According to his own statements, Erich BRANDSTETTER was born 3 July 1927 in St. Poelten, Austria. He used the name Aria WEISS from December 1945 to July 1950 while posing as a displaced Jew in Italy and Israel. Attached to both Washington copies, the Pullach copy, and one Vienna copy of this report is a Personal Record Questionnaire containing the basic biographical data on BRANDSTETTER. Parts of one Washington copy of the PRQ were filled out in BRANDSTETTER's own hand. The following paragraphs are intended to supplement the personal history of BRANDSTETTER, as not even the bare skeleton of such a history can be fitted between the lines of a PRQ form. Our evaluation of the following story is D-3.

2. August 1946 to March 1948 - "Seeking adventure, I ran away from home at the tender age of 18", is the start of the BRANDSTETTER Odyssey. In August 1946, he left his home in St. Poelten and tried to cross the border into Switzerland. After being caught at the border and sent back home, he immediately tried again, this time to Italy. He crossed into Italy successfully, but was caught inside. So that he would not be returned to Austria, he took the name Aria WEISS, claimed that he was a stateless Jew and was accordingly sent to an UNRRA camp. He had himself circumcised so that he could better pass as a Jew and spent three months at the end of 1946 in a Jewish camp for young boys, the Villa Sciesopole, 40 km from Bergamo. From March to September 1947 he resided at the Jewish refugee camp Grotta Farratta, Villa Cabaletti, Rome. In late 1947 he began working as a sailor on ships smuggling Jewish refugees into Israel. In early 1948 he was captured by the British and interned in Cyprus, whence he escaped in March 1948.

3. March 1948 to September 1949 - BRANDSTETTER landed in Haifa with a transport from Cyprus in March 1948 and was drafted off the ship into the Jewish Army. He served as a private with the 3rd Alexandroni Brigade, and he was demobilized in September 1950. He states that during this time he was a Stern gang terrorist raiding Arab villages.

4. September 1949 to June 1950 - During this period, immediately following his demobilization he worked as a laborer on a collective farm, Kibutz "Zaar", Deir Kaharia, Israel. While here he alleges to have told his girl friend fantastic stories about how he had been a big man working for the Nazis in Germany during the war, and these stories later became part of the spy charges against him. In June 1950 he decided that life was too dull and poor, and so he stole the collective farm's motorboat and made his way by sea to Lebanon.

5. June 1950 to February 1952 - During this period he worked

2

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as a low level intelligence agent for a group of Germans who were assisting the Arabs. He was known in Lebanon under his true name of BRANDSTATTER. His status as a Jew gave him free access to Israel where he knew many of the border guards well from his army days and, working for the Arabs, he had free access to Lebanon. During this period of nearly two years he was crossing the Lebanon-Israel border constantly, sometimes several times a day, sometimes once a week, and sometimes only once a month. His missions included reporting of CB on the Israeli forces, carrying letters, and the transport of goods left behind by wealthy Arabs who were forced out of Israel. His address from August 1950 to September 1951 was c/o Sarah and Josef NICKEL, Post Office Box 92, Safed, Lebanon. He stated that NICKEL was just beginning to become involved in intelligence activities when he left in February 1951.

6. Arrest by Israeli Police - In January 1951 the Austrian Consul in Lebanon procured BRANDSTATTER a valid Austrian passport through the Austrian Legation in Cairo. When this had to be extended a few days later, BRANDSTATTER happened to be in Israel, so he went to the Austrian Consul there to request the extension. The Consul learned that he was in Israel illegally and, without BRANDSTATTER's knowledge contacted the Israeli police in an attempt to legalize BRANDSTATTER's presence. The police, who had file traces on his theft of the motorboat, on the story he had told to his former girl, and on his intelligence activity for the Arabs, laid a trap and caught BRANDSTATTER when he returned to the Consulate the following day. He was deported from Israel in late February 1951, and arrived back in St. Pölten in March.

7. March 1952 to September 1952 - After his return to Austria BRANDSTATTER obtained employment on a farm in St. Pölten. He made a practice of coming to Vienna on weekends to seek a little of the excitement to which he was accustomed. He found this excitement on 13 September in the person of Georg WITZER.

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APPENDIX B

SUBJECT: Chronology of [] [] Meetings.

1. 16 October - [] met BRANDSTETTER for the first time from 1130 to 1150, 16 October, in Grigora's operational area at Sternwartestrasse 73. The original purpose at this meeting was to have Grigora agent Walter STAM interrogate BRANDSTETTER in German according to a brief supplied by [] but with [] sitting in to guide the interrogation and make certain that all the information desired by the Station was obtained. It immediately became apparent, however, that BRANDSTETTER could speak good English, and so [] carried out the interrogation himself. The interrogation at this time covered the relationship between BRANDSTETTER and WILTER = LUKATSCH from the recruitment up to and including an account of his arrest by the Soviets, all details which would help in locating and/or identifying WILTER and data on the modus operandi of the collection mechanism. [] gave him 100AS (STAM had given him 90 AS during the previous two days) and instructed him to keep away from the Westbahnhof-Mariahilferstrasse area, where he would be in danger of being spotted by the Soviets.

2. 17 October -

a. [] met BRANDSTETTER at 1115 and interrogated him until 1200 on his personal background. This information is reported in Appendix A. [] again instructed BRANDSTETTER to stay away from the Westbahnhof area and, in no uncertain terms, pointed out on which side his bread was buttered. [] attempted to instill in him a fear of WILTER, so that he would not try to find WILTER on his own. Grigora before the desired information was obtained. He was reminded that it was he who had put WILTER on the block for the Soviets, and that WILTER certainly would not repay the courtesy by giving him back his clothes (which WILTER had bought for him), his passport, and his typewriter. His only hope for getting these back was for him to help Grigora find WILTER and to hope that Grigora could then obtain the things for him. [] further stated that we would pay BRANDSTETTER's living expenses for as long as we desired to talk with him and that, after his usefulness to Grigora here had ended, he would be flown to Lins if desired, receive help in getting another Austrian passport if such help was necessary, and would be given an unspecified sum of money to help him get started on his way.

b. During this session a diversionary topic came up. In a discussion of BRANDSTETTER's activity with the Stern gang in Israel, BRANDSTETTER claimed that he had been in the Sternist headquarters at the time it was raided by the Army and that he had escaped with a

2

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strongbox containing money and the Sternists' most important papers. BRANDSTETTER claims to have taken the money, destroyed some of the papers, and buried the remainder, consisting of 50-75 pages, in a briefcase near the railroad station in Tripoli, Lebanon, because they were so "hot" and he was afraid they would only get him in trouble. He claims that he sold to a Life reporter several pictures obtained from this strongbox pertaining to the assassination of Count BERNADOTTE and that these were published in Life magazine. Among the material evidently cached is the order from the Kipel to the Sternists to assassinate Count BERNADOTTE, letters from the Kipel, signed by Ben ZUKKIN among others, guaranteeing the Sternists that they will be represented in the new government, and partial membership lists of the Stern gang. He claimed that he could draw a map of the cache site so that the material could be recovered by someone else. BRANDSTETTER's hesitancy to speak of his connection with the Sternists contrasted markedly with his complete willingness to talk on all other subjects. [] feels there is a germ of truth in the above but that much of it, especially his account of what papers are in the briefcase, was fabricated on the spot to convince [] of his willingness to cooperate and to build up []' interest. [] is skeptical of BRANDSTETTER's ability to pinpoint the cache on a map so that it could be recovered by someone else. He also has reservations concerning the condition of any papers buried in the ground for several years in a briefcase. BRANDSTETTER spoke of the cache and his Sternist activity only on this one occasion, when he was pressed hard by []. The subject was not exploited to its fullest at this time, and it was not brought up again by [] because of lack of time and because it was felt that forcing BRANDSTETTER to speak about this phase of his life, which he obviously did not want to do, might interfere with this Station's primary responsibility in dealing with BRANDSTETTER, i.e., furthering the Boesselsprung investigation. When the Boesselsprung aspect of the case was completed, this Israeli lead was not followed out because doubts had arisen concerning BRANDSTETTER's bona fides.

e. [] was with BRANDSTETTER again from 1030 to 1715. It was during this time that STEIN went out for the first time to try to locate LUKATSCH, and BRANDSTETTER was held in readiness to identify him if necessary. During the wait, [] cleared up a few questions that had arisen concerning details of the BRANDSTETTER-WINTER relationship. [] gave BRANDSTETTER a towel, wash rag, soap, a package of cigarettes, and 200 LS to buy clothes so that he would have a change of underwear, socks, and shirt.

3. 15 October - This meeting was from 1200 to 1700. BRANDSTETTER filled out a PRQ form, reviewed his account of his arrest, and related in detail an account of his interrogation and treatment by the Soviets. It was not possible to assess what elements of the story were certainly true and what elements possibly false. BRANDSTETTER's experience in undergoing interrogation over the course of the last

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seven years has doubtless made him a capable fabricator, and his descriptions of the personalities, locations, and procedures involved could easily have been those of previous interrogations which he has undergone. [] gave BRANDSTETTER two paperbound books (in English as requested) to occupy his time over the weekend, another package of cigarettes, and 130 AS.

f 4. 20 October - This meeting is recounted in paragraph 3 of the cover memorandum, entitled Disposal of BRANDSTETTER.

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